



# SEAPORT

NORTH CENTRAL IDAHO: CLEARWATER, IDAHO, LATAH, LEWIS, & NEZ PERCE COUNTIES

## EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

Seaport's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased in April to 4.4 percent, up eight-tenths of a percentage point from March's rate of 3.6 percent, as shown in Seaport Table 1. In April 2002, the rate was 5.3 percent. The *Civilian Labor Force* in April 2003 increased by only 80 workers from the previous month. Employment in the first four months of 2003 has remained flat with very little growth.

In April, Seaport's *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* increased by 100 jobs from March 2003, but there was a decrease of 570 jobs from April 2002. The increase from last month was the result of a small increase in *Trade* employment. Recently, jobs have been lost in *Trade*, but in April a net gain was recorded in the *Retail* sector. Most of the new jobs in *Retail Trade* for the month came from existing businesses hiring a few employees as needed. Job losses occurred in all industries from one year ago.

## SPECIAL TOPIC: Projected Employment Opportunities

Through interviews and research, the Idaho Department of Labor has identified specific jobs as future employment opportunities. These include occupations that are the fastest-growing, have high employment, and are in high demand. These are also jobs for which employers are unable to find qualified applicants and include jobs emerging from new business in the region. A list of these projected employment opportunities are listed in Seaport Table 2 on page 23. They are listed alphabetically, not according to a ranking order. An evaluation of a broader list of 538 occupations can be found at the Idaho Department of Labor home page: <http://www.jobservice.us/lmi/wage-survey/TOC000.htm>.

## AREA DEVELOPMENTS

### Clearwater County

- Some Weippe residents are skeptical about projections that millions of

Seaport Table 1: Labor Force & Employment  
Nez Perce County, Idaho and Asotin County, Washington

	April 2003*	March 2003	April 2002	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
<b>INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE</b>					
<b>Seasonally Adjusted</b>					
Civilian Labor Force	36,380	36,300	35,010	0.2	3.9
Unemployment	1,600	1,300	1,840	23.1	-13.0
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.4	3.6	5.3		
Total Employment	34,780	35,000	33,170	-0.6	4.9
<b>Unadjusted</b>					
Civilian Labor Force	36,400	36,430	35,110	-0.1	3.7
Unemployment	1,620	1,560	1,870	3.8	-13.4
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.5	4.3	5.3		
Total Employment	34,780	34,870	33,240	-0.3	4.6
<b>JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK</b>					
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Jobs** - NAICS</b>	26,750	26,650	27,320	0.4	-2.1
<b>Goods-Producing Industries</b>	4,290	4,320	4,330	-0.7	-0.9
Natural Resources & Mining	190	200	160	-5.0	18.8
Construction	960	950	990	1.1	-3.0
Manufacturing	3,140	3,170	3,180	-0.9	-1.3
Wood Product Manufacturing	540	570	580	-5.3	-6.9
Food Manufacturing	90	90	80	0.0	12.5
Paper Manufacturing	1,200	1,210	1,200	-0.8	0.0
Other Manufacturing	1,310	1,300	1,320	0.8	-0.8
<b>Service-Providing Industries</b>	22,460	22,330	22,990	0.6	-2.3
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	6,060	5,960	6,070	1.7	-0.2
Wholesale Trade	620	620	620	0.0	0.0
Retail Trade	4,120	4,040	4,110	2.0	0.2
Utilities	90	90	90	0.0	0.0
Transportation & Warehousing	1,230	1,210	1,250	1.7	-1.6
Information	360	360	370	0.0	-2.7
Financial Activities	1,830	1,830	1,800	0.0	1.7
Professional & Business Services	1,520	1,520	1,540	0.0	-1.3
Education & Health Services	3,830	3,830	4,030	0.0	-5.0
Leisure & Hospitality	2,590	2,580	2,710	0.4	-4.4
Other Services	1,230	1,190	1,210	3.4	1.7
Government Education	2,310	2,340	2,520	-1.3	-8.3
Government Administration	1,860	1,850	1,870	0.5	-0.5
Government Tribes	870	870	870	0.0	0.0

\*Preliminary Estimate

\*\*Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

tourists will descend on the Clearwater River region in pursuit of the Lewis and Clark Corps of Discovery bicentennial observance. "We think about it, but I kind of doubt it will be as fantastic as some people think it will be," said 76-year old Everet Martin, who has lived in Weippe since he was eight years old. Even so, Martin said the build-up to the bicentennial has injected new energy into the Weippe Prairie. A re-enactment of the historical meeting in 1805 between the Corps of Discovery and the Nez Perce Indians was performed in May. Visitors gathered outside the new Weippe Discovery Center to witness Captains Meriwether Lewis (Tim McNeil of Boise) and William Clark (Craig Rockwell of Clarkston) present a 15-star U.S. flag to a Nez Perce chief (Allen Pinkham of Lapwai). "I'm very pleased, on

behalf of the President of the United States, Thomas Jefferson, to present this flag, the star spangled banner," said Rockwell (as Clark). As the flag was raised, riflemen from the Corps of Discovery, played by members of the Lewis and Clark Bitterroot Corps muzzle-loading club of Moscow, fired their rifles into the air in a salute. "This place here," Pinkham said, "was Nez Perce land at one time . . . there is a rediscovery of friendship and camaraderie here that hasn't been felt for a long time." Pinkham said the bicentennial would be a good opportunity for the tribe to educate the public about the Nez Perce way of life, both before and after meeting Lewis and Clark. "We were here when Lewis and Clark got here, and we're still here," Pinkham said in his role as the Nez Perce chief. Dozens of people lined up at the Weippe City Library to form a human chain to transfer 60 books about the Corps of Discovery and the Nez Perce Tribe to the new Weippe Discovery Center, about a half mile away.

#### **Idaho & Lewis Counties**

- Nearly \$1.3 million in federal funds was awarded for several infrastructure projects in Idaho County that will benefit economic development. The grants include \$77,060 for improvements to the Tahoe emergency services facility and \$144,668 to construct a new community center in Greencreek. Stites has been awarded \$500,000 to connect the town into the Kooskia wastewater system. White Bird was also awarded \$500,000, which will be used for water system improvements. The grants will be matched by other federal and state dollars, and will be used for projects that meet both critical community needs as well as provide economic boosts. "Our goal is to put this money to work as quickly as possible," said Paul Anderson, chairman of the Idaho Economic Advisory Council (IEAC). Governor Dirk Kempthorne approved the grants, funded from an annual appropriation from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, on recommendations from the IEAC.

#### **Latah County**

- The University of Idaho's (U of I) fiscal emergency committee has asked acting President Brian Pitcher to slow down the school's University Place project in downtown Boise by delaying full occupancy of the Idaho Water Center, the first building of the project. The move would save approximately \$2.5 million. Future buildings associated with the project have been put on hold indefinitely due to the school's financial situation. Despite the Idaho Legislature's 2.1 percent increase to U of I's appropriation, which totals \$1.34 million after adjustments, the school still faces a \$6.4 million deficit next fiscal year. Delaying the move into the Water Center could make up one

third of that deficit, according to Wayland Winstead, U of I's executive director of institutional planning and budget. "We are deeply appreciative of the Governor and the Legislature for passing any increase in the higher education budget," Winstead said.

- Tourism on the Palouse (Latah County and Whitman County) is a much larger industry than many people realize, accounting for more than \$66 million in economic impact annually, according to the combined statistics of two recent studies from the U of I, and the Washington State Community Trade and Economic Development Office. The combined studies show revenues of \$18.35 million in food and beverage establishments, \$15.65 million in retail sales, \$11.08 million in accommodations, \$6 million in recreation, \$4.7 million in admissions and fees, \$7 million in transportation, \$2 million at food stores and \$1.4 million in wholesale trade within Whitman and Latah Counties. University events are a large part of the annual tourism dollars. As home to two universities—U of I and Washington State University (WSU)—the Palouse attracts **tens of** thousands of visitors for a host of collegiate athletic events and special event weekends. A recent study done for the WSU athletic department indicates that during a PAC-10 conference football weekend, more than \$1.4 million is spent, giving local businesses a boost. In recent estimates the Lionel Hampton Jazz Festival at the U of I resulted in more than \$4 million in economic impact.

#### **Nez Perce and Asotin Counties**

- The Idaho Legislature increased the Lewis Clark State College (LCSC) budget by 2.1 percent—half of what Governor Dirk Kempthorne requested, which will mean approximately \$745,000 more for the school after adjustments are made. "It's going to be a good year," said LCSC Budget Director Whitney Pugh. "We're not going to be able to give salary increases, which is not a good thing, but we are making some changes that show we're still here and moving on." Rising utility costs, audit charges, and market adjustments will use up most of the increase in LCSC's state appropriation. Operational expenses account for about \$345,000 of the increase in funding. Of the remaining funds, approximately \$225,000 will be used for academic affairs, and about \$75,000 for student affairs and administrative services. At least \$100,000 will be set aside in a reserve fund to help shield the school from any future budget cuts.

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Seaport Table 2: Projected Employment Opportunities			
Occupational Title	Wage Hourly Average	Level of Trng Education	Education or Training Level
Accountants and auditors	\$17.52	5	Bachelor's degree
Adjustment clerks	\$9.86	11	Short-term on-the-job-training
Automotive mechanics and service technicians	\$12.49	7	Postsecondary vocational training
Bank tellers	\$7.96	11	Short-term on-the-job-training
Bartenders	\$6.19	11	Short-term on-the-job-training
Bill and account collectors	\$8.89	11	Short-term on-the-job-training
Bookkeeping, accounting, and auditing clerks	\$9.98	10	Moderate-term on-the-job training
Bus drivers, school	\$8.49	11	Short-term on-the-job-training
Cashiers	\$7.14	11	Short-term on-the-job-training
Child care workers	\$6.49	11	Short-term on-the-job-training
Computer engineers	\$25.20	5	Bachelor's degree
Computer support specialists	\$15.52	6	Associate degree
Construction managers	\$24.24	5	Bachelor's degree
Cooks, institution or cafeteria	\$7.58	9	Long-term on-the-job training
Cooks, restaurant	\$7.33	9	Long-term on-the-job training
Counter clerks	\$7.15	11	Short-term on-the-job-training
Dental assistants	\$10.21	10	Moderate-term on-the-job training
Electrical and electronic technicians and technologists	\$15.97	6	Associate degree
Electrical and electronics engineers	\$28.10	5	Bachelor's degree
Electricians	\$16.97	9	Long-term on-the-job training
Financial managers	\$24.71	4	Work experience plus degree
Guards	\$9.39	11	Short-term on-the-job-training
Hand packers and packagers	\$6.87	11	Short-term on-the-job-training
Heating, air conditioning, and refrigeration mechanics and installers	\$14.17	9	Long-term on-the-job training
Insurance claims clerks	\$10.95	10	Moderate-term on-the-job training
Laborers, landscaping and groundskeeping	\$8.33	11	Short-term on-the-job-training
Maintenance repairers, general utility	\$11.20	9	Long-term on-the-job training
Nursing aides, orderlies, and attendants	\$7.63	11	Short-term on-the-job-training
Office clerks, general	\$9.11	11	Short-term on-the-job-training
Painters and paperhangers	\$10.09	10	Moderate-term on-the-job training
Plumbers, pipefitters, and steamfitters	\$16.67	9	Long-term on-the-job training
Police patrol officers	\$14.13	9	Long-term on-the-job training
Receptionists and information clerks	\$8.80	11	Short-term on-the-job-training
Registered nurses	\$18.89	6	Associate degree
Retail salespersons	\$9.68	11	Short-term on-the-job-training
Roofers	\$11.98	10	Moderate-term on-the-job training
Secretaries, except legal and medical	\$10.03	10	Moderate-term on-the-job training
Shipping, receiving, and traffic clerks	\$10.86	11	Short-term on-the-job-training
Systems analysts	\$23.37	5	Bachelor's degree
Teachers, elementary school	\$18.86	5	Bachelor's degree
Teachers, secondary school	\$19.33	5	Bachelor's degree
Waiters and waitresses	\$5.68	11	Short-term on-the-job-training
Welders and cutters	\$11.97	9	Long-term on-the-job training